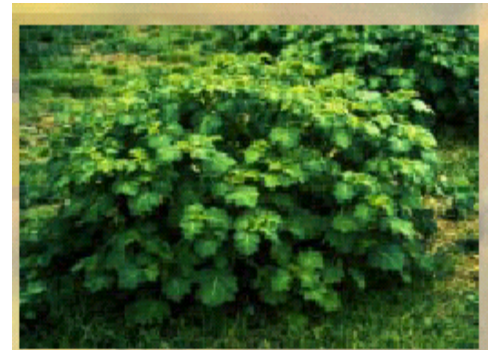


Tropical Soda Apple

Solanum viarum Dunal

CONCERNS: Tropical Soda Apple (TSA) is a Federal Noxious Weed. TSA can over take pastures, roadsides and recreational areas making them nearly impenetrable to domestic animals, large wildlife and man.

DESCRIPTION: TSA plants can reach several feet in height and width. Fig-shaped leaves, stems, petioles and pedicles are armed with thorn-like, straight prickles up to 3/4 inch long.

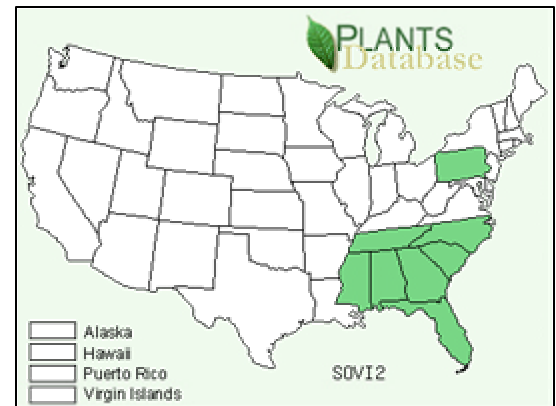


Flowers have white curved petals. Immature fruit are green with a watermelon-like mottled appearance; mature fruit are yellow and are 1-to-1 1/2 inches in diameter.



DISTRIBUTION: This exotic weed has been in Florida for several years and has recently moved into Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina.

SPREAD: Mature fruit are eaten by livestock and wildlife. Viable seed pass through the animal and are defecated. Seed can also be spread as contaminants of hay, sod, seed, composted manure and potting media.



HABITAT: Pastureland, roadsides, cattle yards and other areas frequented by animals or that have received mulches, sod or seed from areas infested by TSA.

CONTROL: Control programs are available.



*Biological control field plots showing control 2 months post treatment in 1998. The bacterial pathogen **Ralstonia solanacearum**.*

Yabuuchi was applied using the Burch Wet Blade Mower to plots on left side that were previously infested with tropical soda apple.

Reference: www.invasive.org, <http://plants.usda.gov>